

September 5, 2007

S-CHIP

Analysis of Democracy Corps National Surveys

To: The Democratic Caucus

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With Iraq so dominant in the news, health care and health care for children emerges as an immense opportunity to make progress and draw lines on perhaps the most important domestic issue. Support for expanding access to health care coverage for children has very broad support and a fight on this ground promises greater energy among base voters, the further consolidation of independents with the Democrats, and erosion in Republican territory.

Strong Support for Expanding S-CHIP

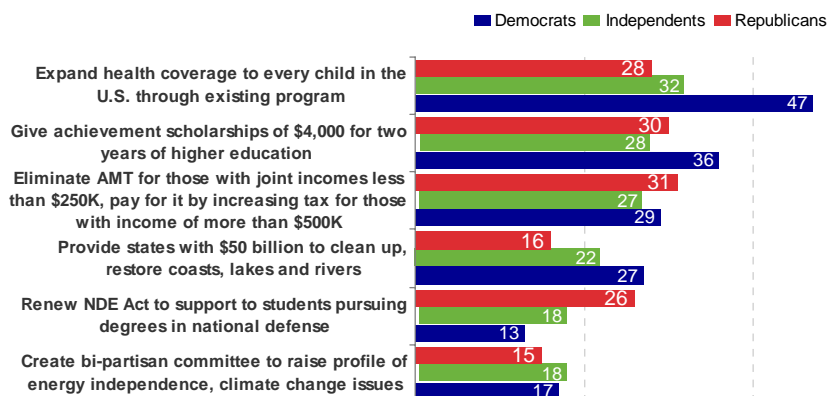
In January as soon as the new Democratic Congress took office, Democracy Corps tested a battery of priorities for the new Congress. Expanding the S-CHIP program was the highest testing proposal with more than a third mentioning it as one of their top two reasons to support a Democratic Congress in the future.¹

Children's health coverage is an issue that aligns Democrats and independents and puts them at odds with Republicans. The support for this issue is especially strong among women voters.

¹ Democracy Corps poll conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research of 1,002 likely voters nationwide from January 24-28, 2007.

Expanding health coverage to children top proposal among Democrats and independents

Thinking about that list, what TWO stood out as the most convincing reasons to support the Democratic Congress?



Note: From Democracy Corps survey of 1,002 likely voters nationwide conducted January 24-28th, 2007.

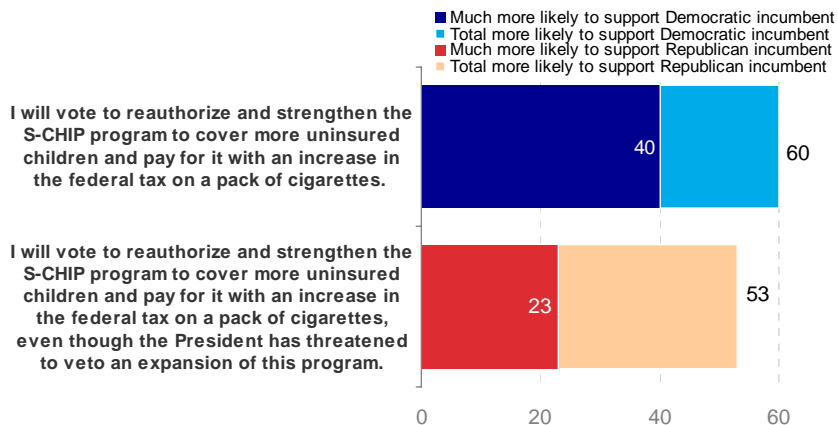
Support for the expansion of the S-CHIP program is strong in both Democratic and Republican held districts. Overall, 60 percent of voters are more likely to vote for the Democratic incumbent when he or she backs the S-Chip initiative, 40 percent much more likely.

- Six-in-ten voters in Democratic-held districts and a majority of voters in Republican-held districts are more likely to support their member of Congress when they advocate for the reauthorization and expansion of the S-CHIP program to cover more uninsured children, even when mentioning that we would pay for it with an increase on the federal tax on a pack of cigarettes.²
- Among independents 58 percent say they are more likely to vote for the Democratic candidate who champions S-CHIP.

² Democracy Corps poll conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research of 1,000 likely voters nationwide from July 25-29, 2007.

Democratic and Republican incumbents gain when supporting S-CHIP

Thinking about that list, what TWO stood out as the most convincing reasons to support the Democratic Congress?



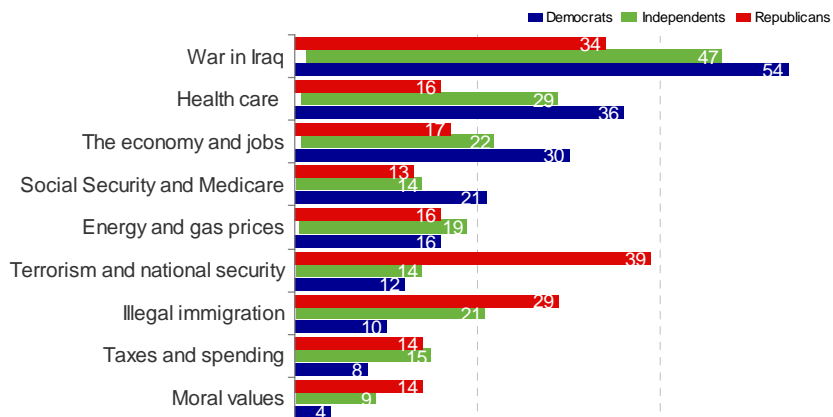
Note: From Democracy Corps survey of 1,000 likely voters nationwide conducted July 25-30, 2007.

Health care security a priority for Americans

Health care is in fact the most important domestic priority for Americans and especially relevant for base Democratic voters. The issue is particularly important for young voters, women, unmarried voters and especially unmarried women – one of the most important targets for registration, turnout and base mobilization.

Health care most important domestic concern among Democrats and independents

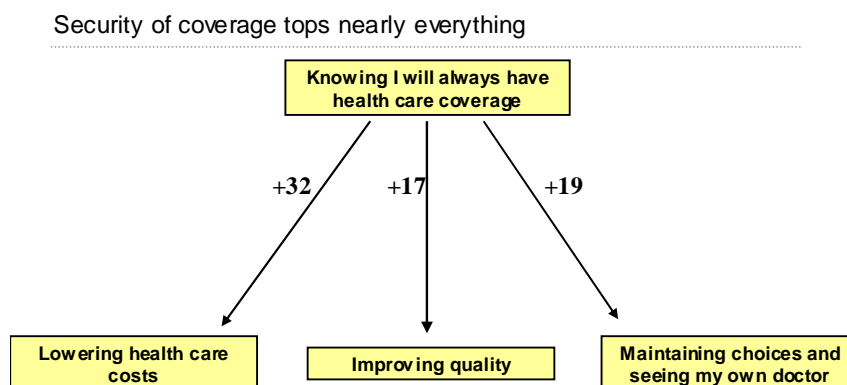
Now I am going to read you a list of concerns people have. Please tell me which ONE of these you think the President and Congress should be paying most attention to. And which should they be paying the next most attention to?



Data from NPR poll performed by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner research with Democracy Corps of 1000 likely voters nationwide April 26-29, 2007.

As mentioned in our latest Democracy Corps Health care memo, voters' desire for security trump concerns about costs, quality or even choice. In this context, proposals that address

access and security are likely to garner the strongest support. Indeed, a majority of voters (53 percent) express strong support for candidates advocating the expansion of Medicaid and S-CHIP to provide health care coverage for every American child. This is in fact the best testing proposal out of a battery of 11 reforms.³



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Action on expanding the S-CHIP program, health insurance for children, is likely to have a strong electoral impact – with Democratic base voters and independents, while putting Republican members in a very difficult position if they continue to stand with the President. This is the highest domestic priority for voters, and it addresses the question of security for very vulnerable families. Bush vetoing this initiative could be a defining moment in the lead up to 2008.

³ Democracy Corps poll conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research of 1,000 likely voters nationwide from May 29-31, 2007.